tobacco curing barm in Andhra Pradesh, energy savings;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board is implementing a scheme for making Flue Cured Virginia tobacco curing barns energy efficient by roof insulation of barns in a phased manner. During 1993-94 season in A.P. 228 barns were insulated for which a total subsidy of Rs. 2,50,800/- was provided.

(c) Does not arise.

Action Contemplated against TTCI Officers

4304. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the action that is being contemplated against the officers of the Tea Trading Corporation of India who are responsible for the irregularities pointed out in para 1.53 of the Third Report of the Committees on Public Undertakings 1991-92; and

(b) whether the financial responsibility has been fixed on such officers and if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Responsibility for the losses to the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. in setting up of joint venture company in Singapore during 1981-82, referred to in para 1.53 of the Third Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings for the year 1991-92, was fixed on the then Chief Executive of the Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd., who has since resigned.

Pepper Export

4305. SHRI V. GOPOLASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of pepper that has been exported to various countries since 1990; year-wise and country-wise figures;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned through exports during this period; year-wise figures;

(c) when was International Pepper Community Organisation established and the details about the organisation and its membership;

(d) how any meetings of this organisation in the past did take place and the decisions taken in each meeting;

(e) when did the last meeting take place and also the decision taken thereof;

(f) when is the next meeting scheduled to take place; and

(g) what steps are being taken to boost pepper export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Statement is enclosed at Annexure *[See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 81].

(b) The foreign exchange equivalent to the following value was earned as export realisation:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Value
1990 . . .	118.97
1991 . . .	70.72
1992 . . .	62.65
1993 . . .	178.63

(Figures Provisional)

(c) International Pepper Community was established in March, 1972 with the major pepper producing countries viz. India, Indonesia and Malaysia as its Members. Later in 1981, Brazil also joined as a Member. The main objective of the community is to promote, co-ordinate and harmonise all activities relating to pepper economy in the member countries. IPC is functioning with its Secretariat at Jakarta, Indonesia. Funding of IPC is from the contributions from its member countries. In 1992, Sri Lanka and Micronesia become the Associate Member of IPC and in 1993, Thailand became a Member.

(d) 21 Sessions of International Pepper Community have.been held so far. Since' the establishment of IPC in 1972, the

Secretariat has directed its activities in three broad fields for improvement of pepper economy i.e. (i) Production and Research; (ii) Trade and Marketing; and (iii) Processing and Product Development. Available information on decisions taken in the various meetings is given in the enclosed statement. *(See* below)

(e) The last meeting viz. the 21st Ses sion of the IPC was held during June, 1993 at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia. Major deci sions taken were:—

(i) To hold an International Seminar 'Towards a more Vibrant Pepper Economy in Thailand during 1994.

(ii) Formulated Criteria for eligibility of the Associate Membership of the IPC.

(f) The 22nd Session of IPC will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand during August, 1994.

(g) Spices Board has taken several mea-sures for increasing export of spices including pepper. These include: (i) setting up a Quality Evaluation and Upgradation Laboratory for improving quality of pepper; (ii) organising training programmes for exporters, traders and farmers; (iii) conducting a large number of training programmes in the pepper areas directly by the Spices Board and also through State Departments of Agriculture of res-pective pepper growing States ; (iv) sending business delegations abroad, organising Buyer-Seller Meets and participating in international fairs and exhibitions.

Statement

VARIOUS DECISIONS TAKEN IN SESSIONS OF IPC

14th *Session during October-November,* 1986 *at Salvador, Brazil*

1. Exchange of planting material with member pepper producing countries.
2. Exchange of extension workers and leading farmers among the member countries.

15th Session of the IPC held at Ktiching, Saravak, Malaysia during November, 1987

1. Decided to give priority on improvement of Quality control as storage of pepper and pepper products in the E-TCDC project on export group.
2. Decided to seek financial assistance from ITC, Geneva for hiring a legal expert to look into the legal aspects of the common sales contract and the draft rules of the arbitration.

\bth Session of the IPC held at Goa, India during November, 1988

1. The exporters of Member countries mutually agreed not to all pepper below 85 US Cents/LB C&F New York. It was decided that the MEP should be determined methodological taking into account the total cost of production and thus requested the member countries to work out the total cost of the production with the respective countries and submit to IPC.

17th Session of the IPC held at Yogya-larta, Indonesia during November-Decembei, 1988

1. Decided to request the member countries to evaluate parameters for socio-economic study for production and productivity of pepper holdings in member countries.

18th Session of the IPC held at Belem. Afazil during December, 1990.

1. Decided to set up a special committee comprising of at least one from each member country to consider the rules of arbitration and common sales contract.
2. Decided to implement the project on co-operation among the IPC member countries in development and use of a computer simulation model for fore-casting supply and demand of pepper with the funding by Government of the Netherlands.

19//i *Session of the International Pepper Community held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during October,* 1991

1. A paper on suggestions for the revi-talisation of the IPC was presented and based on this, it was decided that the staff of the expansion of members

of the IPC should be shared by the member countries also. It was also decided to convene the seminar on "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in 1993.

20th Session of the IPC held at Madras, India during August, 1992

1. Decided to conduct a study on a scheme to stabilise pepper prices with expert assistance from an appropriate international agencies.
2. Session endorsed the amendment to the agreement establishing pepper community and its rules of procedure with regard *to* Associate Membership.

2lst Session of the IPC held at Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia during June, 1993

1. Holding the international seminar "Towards a More Vibrant Pepper Economy" in Thailand during 1994.
2. Formulated criteria for eligibility of the Associate Membership of the IPC.

Procurement and Export of Iron Ore.

4306. SHRI RAHASBJHARI BARIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of iron ore procured from Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh for export, during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a sharp decline in the procurement and export of iron ore from these States during these years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the procurement and export ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) The quantity of iron ore procured from Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh during the last three years is given below:—

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Bihar	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh
1	2	3	4
1991-92	3.74	19.67	52.44
1992-93	2.25	10.87	43.18
1993-94 (P)	3.22	11.21	43.23

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The decline in procurement and exports of iron ore from Orissa and Bihar sector has been due to lesser intake by Japanese Steel Mills owing to continuing recession in steel industry, infrastructure! tonstraints at Paradip Port restricting accommodation of large size vessels and consistent high level of stocks held by MMTC at their loading stations and at Paradip Port.

Fall in procurement and export of iron ore from Madhya Pradesh has primarily been due to lesser surplus availability of Bailadila jumps for exports on accounts of pressing domestic demand by Vizag Steel Plant and sponge & pig iron producers.

(d) The following steps have been taken to increase procurement as well as exports :

(i) New markets have been identified to make up for the shortfall in exports to Japan.

(ii) To suit market demand, product range was enlarged. Paradip Port is now exporting calibrated lumps to Pakistan and Malaysia and fines to China.

(iii) Possibilities are being explored to promote setting up of sizing plants in Orissa-Bihar Sector to match customer's demand for calibrated lumps and fines for sinter making.

(iv) With a view to encourage domestic consumption of iron ore, MMTC is also contemplating setting up an iron and steel complex in Orissa as a Joint venture.

आयातित और निर्यात की गई वस्तुओं के वस्तु-वार मूल्य

4307. श्री राधवजी : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1993-94 के दौरान आयातित और निर्यात किए गये खाद्यान्नों, दालों, तेल और चीनी का वस्तु-वार मूल्य क्या है ;

(ख) उपरोक्त प्रत्येक वस्तु पर सभी खर्चों सहित भारत में आयात करने पर प्रति मीटरी कितनी लागत आई ; और